

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-7 and 9-31 remain pending in this application. Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

The independent claims have been amended to add limitations similar to cancelled claim 8. The prior art does not suggest or disclose the inventions defined by the amended claims. In particular Gillon col. 5, lines 48-57, previously cited by the Examiner against claim 8, does not suggest or disclose the inventions defined by the amended independent claims.

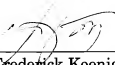
If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant: Brooks et al.
Application No.: 09/744,545

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-7 and 9-31, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooks et al.

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